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Commission for Social Development

Report on the fifty-fifth session (12 February 2016 and 1-10 February 2017)

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Summary

The fifty-fifth session of the Commission for Social Development was held on 12 February 2016 and from 1 to 10 February 2017, with the priority theme of "Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all". This was the review year of the two-year review and policy cycle. The Commission also reviewed relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the emerging issue, "Promoting integrated policies for poverty eradication: youth development in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

The Presidents of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council addressed the opening of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission. The Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development also addressed the Commission on behalf of the Secretary-General. In his address, the President of the General Assembly pointed out that the focus of the Commission on promoting people-centred development had helped shape key sustainable development concepts that laid the foundation for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He underscored that the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in their entirety was firmly within reach. The President of the Economic and Social Council further emphasized that today's generation could be the one to eradicate the scourge of poverty, inequality, exclusion and environmental degradation.

During the session, in addition to its general discussions, the Commission convened three high-level panel discussions on, respectively: (a) the priority theme; (b) the emerging issue, "Promoting integrated policies for poverty eradication: youth development in the 2030 Agenda"; and (c) leaving no one behind: poverty and disability.

The Chair's summary of the panel discussions is available from the website of the Commission (http://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocd-social-policy-and-development-division/csocd55/summaries.html).

The Chair of the Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Social Development presented the outcome of the Civil Society Forum, which emphasized social protection, including social protection floors, as a preeminent strategy to eradicate poverty and achieve social development for all. A youth representative highlighted the outcomes of the Economic and Social Council Youth Forum, including recommendations under the goals being reviewed by the 2017 high-level political forum on sustainable development. Meaningful youth engagement in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as in other United Nations processes, was emphasized.

The Commission welcomed the theme of the session, which was fully aligned with that of the 2017 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. It reaffirmed its support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the thematic reviews of the high-level political forum as part of its work to promote social development. It was acknowledged that the focus of the Commission on promoting people-centred development had helped shape key sustainable development concepts, laying the

foundation for the 2030 Agenda. In particular, the Commission recognized the enormous role it could play in providing guidance on inclusive social policies. It strongly underscored that no development could be sustained if millions of people were left behind.

The Commission stressed that the international community must bolster current commitments to eradicate poverty in all its forms and must fully implement the 2030 Agenda in its entirety to ensure that no one was left behind. It noted that the 2030 Agenda was inextricably linked to the rights of women, young people, older persons, indigenous people, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. Those groups continued to disproportionately face major obstacles to their development, while people living in extreme poverty lacked the political power and equal opportunities to take charge of their destiny. Hence, human dignity must be at the centre of any sustainable development process.

In the panel discussion, and the general debate of the Commission on the priority theme, participants reviewed various strategies that countries have been implementing in order to eradicate poverty in all its forms, including extreme poverty. Such strategies include investing in education, health, housing, agriculture and infrastructure, promoting full and productive employment and decent work, social protection systems and the empowerment of women. International cooperation, including through honouring official development assistance commitments, capacity-building, technical cooperation and domestic resource mobilization were also identified as critical to eradicating poverty.

While acknowledging the tremendous progress that has been made to reduce poverty, delegations noted with concern the persistence of high levels of poverty and unemployment. It was reiterated that poverty eradication constitutes the basis for and premise upon which all countries can achieve social development and promote prosperity. In order to fully implement the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions as set forth in the 2030 Agenda, greater efforts are required to ensure that no one is left behind. Ending poverty also requires more inclusive, effective and innovative national development strategies backed by an enabling international environment. Moreover, the Commission underscored that further progress in eradicating poverty would require enhanced policy integration and coordination, economic reforms that would make markets work better for people living in poverty, avoiding major financial crises, and mitigating and adapting to climate change. It was highlighted that strategies and policies to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions must be tailored to national realities. Progress can be made if policymakers are willing to learn from mistakes and adapt to the evidence of failure. The Commission also emphasized that poverty monitoring and data collection must be relevant to social policy dialogue. The Commission also heard the views of nearly 20 civil society organizations on these issues.

The high-level panel discussion and general debate on the priority theme noted with concern that efforts to eradicate poverty continue to face significant challenges. Those include global economic growth that continues to disappoint, world financial markets that remain volatile, persistent high levels of unemployment and ongoing humanitarian crises. Further, the effects of ongoing climate change continue to

worsen. The Commission expressed further concern that the international community has seen a rise of new threats to the ideals of a more inclusive world. Major threats include calls from some countries to strengthen exclusionary national economies and the scapegoating of refugees, migrants and religious and ethnic minorities. Concern was also expressed regarding the impact of conflicts, the influx of refugees and economic sanctions on social development in some countries.

The panel discussion on youth and the 2030 Agenda spotlighted challenges faced by young people, particularly the high levels of youth unemployment and inequality. It was emphasized that the success of the 2030 Agenda hinges on the empowerment and involvement of young people. Youth delegates reminded the Commission that while young people are recognized as the main beneficiaries of the 2030 Agenda, young people did not feel included in the various processes related to its implementation, and called upon Governments to strengthen youth participation at all levels of implementation.

The Commission also shared national, regional and global experiences and innovations in poverty alleviation for persons with disabilities. Discussions underscored the need to incorporate the issue of disability into all future sustainable development efforts and the obligations of States and international organizations to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities demanded full participation in decision-making and emphasized the importance of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by, for, and with persons with disabilities. The Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities called for a rights-based approach to development.

The Commission adopted two draft resolutions that are recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, on:

(a) "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development";

(b) "Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

The Commission adopted a resolution on "Policies and programmes involving youth", which is brought to the attention of the Council.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[1] and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,[2] the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post 2015 development agenda, held in New York from 25 to 27 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",[3] and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[4] reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000[5] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[6] and recalling the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[7] the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development of 16 September 2002,[8] General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[9]

Recognizing the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit with regard to meeting the special needs of Africa and reaffirmed in the political declaration on Africa's development needs adopted at the high-level meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 22 September 2008,[10] and noting the relevant decisions of African Union summits related to the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.
[2] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.
[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[4] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.
[5] General Assembly resolution 55/2.
[6] General Assembly resolution 60/1.
[7] General Assembly resolution 65/1.
[8] General Assembly resolution 57/2.
[9] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.
[10] General Assembly resolution 63/1.

including the conclusions of the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, held in Ouagadougou on 8 and 9 September 2004,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets and affirmed its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015, containing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the fourth session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Social Development, on the theme "Strengthening the African family for inclusive development in Africa", held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 May 2014, and the first session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment, on the theme "Social protection for inclusive development", held in Addis Ababa from 20 to 24 April 2015, recalling in this regard the African Common Position on Social Integration and the Social Policy Framework for Africa, both of which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in February 2009, as well as the African Common Position on Good Practices in Family Policy Development and Implementation for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (2014) and the renewed Continental Plan of Action on the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2010-2019), which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in January 2013, and taking note of the adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa in 2016,

Acknowledging the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, both of which are integral to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and offer an important opportunity for Africa to achieve inclusive and transformative development, and underscoring in this regard the importance of a coherent and coordinated implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda,

Noting with appreciation the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa adopted by the African Union, which calls for the creation of an enabling environment for adequate investments and the adoption of the sector reforms aimed

at promoting economic and social development and reducing poverty on the continent through the implementation of integrated regional infrastructure networks,

Recalling the ministerial statement on the theme "Towards an integrated and coherent approach to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals", adopted by the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration, and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development at their ninth joint meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 4 and 5 April 2016,

Noting with concern the continued prevalence of child, early and forced marriage, as well as violence and other harmful practices against children, including female genital mutilation, and welcoming in this regard the Africa-wide campaign to end child marriage in Africa, launched at the Conference of Ministers of Social Development held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 May 2014, and the endorsement by the Pan-African Parliament in August 2016 of the ban on female genital mutilation,

Concerned about addressing the effects of the world financial and economic crisis so as to avoid its recurrence and to continue to promote global economic stability and the underlying institutional reforms required to ensure sustained, inclusive and equitable global economic growth for the benefit of all countries,

Expressing concern about the adverse impact of the continuing fragility and the slowdown of global growth and trade, including on development, cognizant that the global economy remains in a challenging phase, with many downside risks, including capital outflows from some emerging and developing economies, continued low commodity prices, high unemployment, particularly among young people, and rising private and public indebtedness in many developing countries, and stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date, to attend to these challenges and to make progress towards sustaining global demand, reaffirming the need to continue to support the special needs of Africa and to take action to mitigate the multidimensional impacts of the crisis on the continent,

Noting that Africa is abundantly endowed with natural resources, including many industrial minerals and agricultural resources that are exported mainly in primary form, and that the exploitation of the natural resources sector in Africa has for many years attracted foreign direct investment in capital-intensive enclave sectors that has the potential, when paired with appropriate policies, including employment-intensive policies, to spur structural transformation, create employment, contribute to poverty eradication and reduce inequality,

Emphasizing that the African Union and the regional economic communities have a critical role to play in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[11] and in this regard encouraging African countries, with the assistance of their development partners, to increase and coordinate effectively their support for enhancing the capacities of these institutions and to promote regional cooperation and social and economic integration in Africa,

[11] A/57/304, annex.

Recognizing the regional coordination mechanism of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development Programme of Action, as well as the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership as a technical body of the African Union, which aims to ensure coordination and coherence in the delivery of support for greater effectiveness and impact through increased joint programming and joint implementation of activities,

Recognizing also that capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and best practices are essential for the successful implementation of the New Partnership, and recognizing further the need for continued support from the international community, partners of the New Partnership and United Nations agencies to continue to work towards sustained, inclusive, equitable and sustainable economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, and development on the African continent and for greater synergy and effective coordination between the New Partnership and the international initiatives related to Africa, and emphasizing the importance of the close collaboration of the African Union Commission and the United Nations as the co-organizers of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, and recalling the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development and its outcome documents, the Nairobi Declaration and the Nairobi Implementation Plan, and the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and its outcome documents, the Declaration of the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Johannesburg Action Plan (2016-2018),

Recognizing further that investments in people, especially their social protection, health, inclusive and equitable quality education, and lifelong learning opportunities for all, are essential to enhancing agricultural productivity and performance, and thereby key to sustainable and equitable growth and poverty reduction, through increasing decent job creation and employability opportunities for all, especially for women and youth, improving food security and nutrition and building resilience,

Recognizing that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets and that the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is crucial,

Recognizing also that the lack of access to drinking water and proper sanitation contributes to slow progress in reducing Africa's disease burden, particularly among the poorest populations, in both rural and urban areas, and conscious of the impact of the lack of sanitation on people's health, poverty reduction efforts, economic and social development and the environment, in particular water resources,

Noting with appreciation that the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative and bilateral donors have provided substantial debt relief to 36 countries, 30 of which are in Africa, that have reached the completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which has considerably reduced their debt vulnerability and enabled them to increase their investments in social services,

Bearing in mind that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development, that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized and that the development efforts of such countries need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conference on Financing for Development to the New Partnership,[12]

Noting other relevant forums, such as the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and its first high-level meeting, on the theme "Building towards an inclusive post 2015 development agenda", held in Mexico City on 15 and 16 April 2014, and its second high-level meeting, held in Nairobi from 28 November to 1 December 2016, during which existing and new development actors committed to effective development cooperation as a means of achieving the universal and interrelated Sustainable Development Goals,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[13]

2. *Welcomes* the progress made by African Governments in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development[11] to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encouraging them, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and creating an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment for the development of the region;

3. *Also welcomes* the progress that has been achieved in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, in particular the voluntary adherence of 36 African countries to the Mechanism and the completion of the peer review process in 20 countries, welcomes the progress in implementing the national programmes of action resulting from those reviews, in this regard urges African States that have not yet done so to consider joining the Mechanism process, and encourages further strengthening of the Mechanism process for its efficient performance;

4. *Reaffirms* the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 of the African Union, as well as its 10-year implementation plan, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme;

5. *Recognizes* the progress that has been made in the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, particularly through the mechanism of the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative, under which impressive progress has been recorded in the conception of many critical infrastructure projects on the continent;

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[12] See *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[13] E/CN.5/2017/2.

6. *Welcomes and urges* further efforts to promote the process of regional economic cooperation in Africa, including measures to facilitate regional connectivity, trade and transit, including through regional development initiatives such as the comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme framework and the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, and the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Twenty-first Century Maritime Silk Road initiatives, emphasizing that such initiatives should stimulate jobs and growth for all, spur African integration and mobility, and encourage the full and equitable participation of Africa in global value chains;

7. *Stresses* that inclusive and sustainable industrialization is a critical engine of economic and social development, and emphasizes the need to accelerate Africa's inclusive and sustainable industrialization by the adoption and implementation of specific measures and actions at the national, regional and continental levels and with the support of and in collaboration with development partners and the international community;

8. *Also stresses* the importance of taking measures to promote the dynamic diversification of African economies through transforming African economies from resource dependence, increasing local processing of and value addition to natural resources in order to expand the domestic economy and increase revenue, and developing new industries in order to transform lives and create opportunities for more and better jobs;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts made by African countries and regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, to mainstream a gender perspective and the empowerment of women and girls in the implementation of the New Partnership, including the implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;

10. *Also welcomes* the decision taken by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-sixth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 January 2016, to proclaim 2017 the year of harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth;

11. *Notes* that health is a precondition, an indicator and an outcome of sustainable development and that, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] robust efforts are needed to sustain gains made under the Millennium Development Goals and integrate additional health issues into a broad health and development agenda, particularly the extension of universal health coverage;

12. *Stresses* the importance of improving maternal and child health, and in this regard welcomes the declaration of the African Union summit on maternal, infant and child health and development, held in Kampala from 19 to 27 July 2010, notes that 47 African countries have since integrated the objectives of the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality in Africa into their national strategies, and urges the pursuit and implementation of commitments to improve maternal and child health;

13. *Encourages* African countries to prioritize investments in building the institutional capacity of health systems, reduce health inequities within and across

countries, progressively achieve universal health coverage and curb the outbreak of major diseases;

14. *Invites* development partners to continue to assist African countries in their efforts to strengthen national health systems, including by providing skilled health personnel, reliable health information and data, research infrastructure and laboratory capacity, and to expand surveillance systems in the health sector, including by providing support for the efforts to prevent, protect against and combat outbreaks of disease, including outbreaks of neglected tropical diseases, and in this context reiterates its support for the Kampala Declaration and Agenda for Global Action and follow-up conferences to respond to the serious health workforce crisis in Africa;

15. *Encourages* Member States to continue providing international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries, particularly African countries, in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies;

16. *Emphasizes* that progress in the implementation of the New Partnership depends also on a favourable national and international environment for Africa's growth and development, including measures to promote a policy environment conducive to private sector development and entrepreneurship and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

17. *Also emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society and effective participation by civil society, including non-governmental and community-based organizations, and the private sector are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

18. *Further emphasizes* that the increasingly unacceptable high levels of poverty, inequality and social exclusion faced by most African countries require a comprehensive approach to the development and implementation of social and economic policies, inter alia, to reduce poverty, to promote economic activity, growth and sustainable development in order to ensure productive employment creation and decent work for all, to promote quality education, health and social protection and to enhance equality, social inclusion, political stability, democracy and good governance at all levels and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

19. *Emphasizes* that identifying and removing barriers to opportunity, as well as ensuring access to basic social protection and social services, are necessary to break the cycle of poverty, inequality and social exclusion;

20. *Encourages* African countries to continue to prioritize structural transformation, modernize smallholder agriculture, add value to primary commodities, improve public and private institutions of economic and political governance and invest in major public infrastructure projects and in inclusive, equitable and quality education and health in order to promote inclusive growth, generate full and productive employment and decent work for all and reduce poverty;

21. *Emphasizes* that economic development, including employment-intensive resource-based industrial development, with due regard to the sustainable management and use of natural resources, infrastructural development and structural transformation, in particular in the rural economy, based on pragmatic and targeted policies to enhance productive capacities in Africa that are consistent with national development priorities and international commitments, can generate employment and income for all African men and women, including the poor, and therefore be an engine for poverty eradication and for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

22. *Encourages* African countries to continue to foster political stability, promote peace and security and strengthen the governance, policy and institutional environment in order to enhance the prospects for inclusive and sustainable development, and to develop an enabling environment for the private sector to contribute to sustainable economic transformation and the creation of productive employment and decent work for all;

23. *Stresses* the essential role that official development assistance plays in complementing, leveraging and sustaining financing for development efforts in developing countries and in facilitating the achievement of development objectives, including the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, and welcomes steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid based on the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results, inclusive development partnerships and transparency and mutual accountability;

24. *Welcomes* the increase in the volume of official development assistance since the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus,[14] expresses its concern that many countries still fall short of their official development assistance commitments, reiterates that the fulfilment of all such commitments remains crucial, welcomes the fact that a few countries have met or surpassed their commitment to provide 0.7 per cent of gross national income as official development assistance and the target of providing 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income as assistance to the least developed countries, urges all other countries to step up efforts to increase their official development assistance and to make additional concrete efforts towards their targets, welcomes the decision by the European Union reaffirming its collective commitment to achieving the target of providing 0.7 per cent of gross national income as official development assistance within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and undertaking to meet collectively the target of providing 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income as official development assistance to the least developed countries in the short term and reach 0.20 per cent within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda, and encourages providers of such assistance to consider setting a target of providing at least 0.20 per cent of gross national income as official development assistance to the least developed countries;

[14] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

25. *Recognizes* that, while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal, and calls upon the international community to continue to support the resolution of challenges faced by developing countries, especially the least developed countries, including in Africa, to independently achieving sustainable development;

26. *Also recognizes* the contribution made by Member States to the implementation of the New Partnership in the context of South-South cooperation, and encourages the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of African countries, including through trilateral cooperation;

27. *Welcomes* the various important initiatives undertaken by Africa's development partners in recent years, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of coordination in such initiatives on Africa through ensuring the effective implementation of existing commitments, including through the African Union/New Partnership for Africa's Development African Action Plan 2010-2015: Advancing Regional and Continental Integration in Africa, which remains at the centre of the continent's engagement with partners, and the Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017-2027, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-fifth ordinary session;[15]

28. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations and the African Union to align the clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa[16] with the strategic frameworks of the African Union and the New Partnership for 2014-2017 and Agenda 2063, welcomes in this regard the Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017-2027, and *reaffirms* its resolution 71/254 of 23 December 2016, entitled "Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and development Agenda 2017-2027", and invites development partners, including the United Nations system, to continue to support the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa in achieving its objectives, including through the allocation of the necessary financing to support the implementation of its activities;

29. *Encourages* African countries to intensify their efforts to strengthen national statistical capacity in order to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators for the monitoring of national development policies and strategies and of the implementation of commitments for the achievement of all sustainable development goals at the national, regional and international levels, and in this regard urges donor countries and organizations, including the United Nations

[15] General Assembly resolution 71/254.

[16] The eight clusters include sustainable and inclusive economic growth, industry, trade and regional integration; infrastructure development; development of human capital, health, science, technology and innovation; labour, employment creation, social protection, migration and mobility; women and gender equality and youth empowerment; humanitarian matters, environment, urbanization and population; and advocacy, information, communications and culture.

system, and the international and regional statistical communities to support African countries in strengthening statistical capacity in support of development;

30. *Underlines* the importance for African Governments to build the productive capacity of agriculture, as a top priority, in order to increase rural incomes and ensure access to food for net food buyers, and stresses that greater efforts should be made to promote and implement sustainable agriculture, increase access for smallholder farmers, in particular women, to necessary agricultural resources, including productive assets, and improve access to infrastructure, information and markets, and that, furthermore, efforts should be made to promote small and medium-sized enterprises that contribute to job growth and increase incomes along the agricultural value stream;

31. *Urges* African Governments, within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, to expand investment financing to agriculture to at least 10 per cent of the annual budget of the national public sector while at the same time ensuring necessary action in policy and institutional reforms for enhanced performance of the agriculture industry and systems;

32. *Recognizes* the need for Africa's development partners that are supporting agriculture, food security and nutrition in Africa to align their efforts more specifically towards supporting the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, using the Programme's investment plans for alignment of external funding, and in this regard takes note of the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security;[17]

33. *Also recognizes* that the implementation of the commitments made by Governments during the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) has fallen short of expectations, and welcomes the proclamation of the Second Decade (2008-2017) by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/205 of 19 December 2007 in order to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

34. *Urges* African countries to pay close attention to inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth capable of being employment-intensive, including through employment-intensive investment programmes, aimed at reducing inequalities, increasing productive employment, generating decent work for all, particularly those who are vulnerable, including women and young people, and improving real per capita incomes in both rural and urban areas;

35. *Emphasizes* the need, in particular for African countries, to enhance capacity-building for sustainable development, and in this regard calls for the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and reiterates the importance of adequate human resources development, including through training, the exchange of experience and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity-building, which involves strengthening institutional capacity, including policy coherence, coordination and implementation, as well as planning, management and monitoring capacities;

[17] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

36. *Also emphasizes* the importance of increasing international cooperation to improve the quality of and access to education, in particular for African countries, including through building and strengthening education-related infrastructure and increasing investment in education;

37. *Urges* African countries and development partners to meet the needs of young people and empower them, in particular by tackling the high levels of youth unemployment through the development of quality education, skills training and entrepreneurship programmes that address illiteracy, enhance the employability and capabilities of young people, facilitate school-to-work transitions and expand guaranteed employment schemes, where appropriate, with particular attention to disadvantaged young people in both rural and urban areas;

38. *Recognizes* that improving access to school for all girls and boys, especially the poorest and most vulnerable and marginalized, and their ability to receive a quality education, and improving the quality of education beyond primary school can have a positive impact in terms of empowerment and on social, economic and political participation and thus on the fight against poverty and hunger and can contribute directly to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

39. *Also recognizes* that Africa's youthful population creates significant opportunities for the continent's development, and underlines in this regard the importance of African countries creating appropriate policy environments, in collaboration with the United Nations system, in order to realize a demographic dividend driven by large proportions of young people moving into their prime working years, while adopting an inclusive results-based approach to development planning and implementation in accordance with national priorities and legislation;

40. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations, other relevant institutions and stakeholders, as appropriate, to provide relevant skills training for youth, high-quality health-care services and dynamic labour markets to employ a growing population;

41. *Calls upon* the international community to enhance support and fulfil its commitments to take further action in areas critical to Africa's economic and social development, in the spirit of win-win cooperation and to create a shared future, based upon our common humanity, and welcomes the efforts by development partners to strengthen cooperation with the New Partnership;

42. *Welcomes* the increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and to increase its development impact, recognizes its Development Cooperation Forum, notes other initiatives, such as the high-level forums on aid effectiveness, which produced, inter alia, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action[18] and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which make important contributions to the efforts of the countries that have made commitments to them, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization and managing for results, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and bears in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective

[18] A/63/539, annex.

assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered;

43. *Recognizes* the need for Governments and the international community to continue to make efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for sustainable development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support the development of African countries, and welcomes the various important initiatives established between African countries and their development partners in this regard;

44. *Acknowledges* the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions and the African Development Bank in African countries, and invites those institutions to continue their support for the implementation of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership;

45. *Expresses deep concern* that illicit financial flows and poor legal, fiscal and regulatory frameworks for mineral resources undermine national development efforts, encourages African countries to take measures to address these challenges, and invites development partners to continue to assist African countries in tackling illicit financial flows;

46. *Encourages* Africa's development partners to continue to integrate the priorities, values and principles of the New Partnership into their development assistance programmes;

47. *Encourages* African countries and their development partners to place people at the centre of government development action, to secure core investment spending in health, education and social protection and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, recognizing that social protection floors can provide a basis from which to address poverty and vulnerability, and in this regard takes note of Recommendation No. 202 concerning national floors of social protection, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 101st session, on 14 June 2012, which can serve as a guideline for social investment;

48. *Notes* the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, and requests the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa;

49. *Emphasizes* the importance for the cluster working on information, communications and culture to continue to muster international support for the New Partnership, and urges the United Nations system to demonstrate more evidence of cross-sectoral synergies to promote a comprehensive approach with regard to successive phases of planning and implementation of social development programmes in Africa;

50. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to continue to discuss in its annual programme of work those regional programmes that promote social development so as to enable all regions to share experiences and best practices, with the agreement of concerned countries, and in this regard requests that the work

programmes of the Commission include priority areas of the New Partnership, as appropriate;

51. *Decides* that the Commission for Social Development should continue to give prominence to and raise awareness of the social dimensions of the New Partnership and give due consideration to Agenda 2063 of the African Union at its fifty-sixth session;

52. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Economic Commission for Africa, taking into consideration General Assembly resolutions 62/179 of 19 December 2007, 63/267 of 31 March 2009, 64/258 of 16 March 2010, 65/284 of 22 June 2011, 66/286 of 23 July 2012, 67/294 of 15 August 2013, 68/301 of 17 July 2014, 69/290 of 19 June 2015 and 70/295 of 25 July 2016, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", to submit to the Commission for Social Development, for its consideration at its fifty-sixth session, a report on the social dimensions of the New Partnership, including, in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies, an overview of current processes related to social development in Africa, including recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of the work of United Nations bodies while preserving the social dimensions of the New Partnership.

Draft resolution II
Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[1] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,[2]

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] which is inclusive of persons with disabilities and in which Member States pledged to leave no one behind, and acknowledging that Member States, while implementing the 2030 Agenda, should, inter alia, respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without discrimination of any kind,

Welcoming also the follow-up and review of progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the inclusion of persons with disabilities as stakeholders in its work, as set out in General Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013,

Reaffirming the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[4] adopted on 13 December 2006, as a landmark convention affirming the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities, and recognizing that it is both a human rights treaty and a development tool,

Recalling all operational frameworks in which persons with disabilities are recognized as both development agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of development,

Welcoming General Assembly resolutions 70/145, entitled "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto", 70/170, entitled "Towards the full realization of an inclusive and accessible United Nations for persons with disabilities", and 71/165, entitled "Inclusive development for persons with disabilities",

Convinced that addressing the profound civil, political, social, cultural and economic disadvantage and exclusion experienced by many persons with disabilities, promoting the use of universal design, as appropriate, as well as the progressive removal of barriers to the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development, and promoting the equal enjoyment by persons with disabilities of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights will further the equalization of opportunities and contribute to the realization of a "society for all" in the twenty-first century,

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[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.
[2] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.
[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

Noting that, while progress has already been made by Governments, the international community and the United Nations system in mainstreaming disability, including the rights of persons with disabilities, as an integral part of the global development agenda, major challenges remain,

Emphasizing the importance of policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities in both rural and urban areas and promoting appropriate measures, in particular in cities and human settlements, that facilitate access for persons with disabilities to the physical environment of cities and other facilities and services open or provided to the public,

Recognizing that persons with disabilities are often disproportionately affected in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters, and that they are often at increased risk of discrimination, exploitation and violence, including sexual and gender-based violence,

Recognizing also that women and girls with disabilities are often among the most vulnerable and marginalized, and emphasizing the need to make further efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations to improve accessibility, in particular through a harmonized approach to accessible meeting services in both policy and practice at United Nations conference facilities, which contribute to an accessible United Nations inclusive of persons with disabilities by facilitating their participation in the meetings of the United Nations and their access to the documentation of the United Nations,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "Mainstreaming disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"[5] and "Towards the full realization of an inclusive and accessible United Nations for persons with disabilities"[6] and the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of persons with disabilities which focuses on disability-inclusive policies;[7]

2. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant regional organizations and United Nations bodies and agencies to ensure that all development policies and programmes, including those regarding poverty eradication, education, health care, participation in public life, social protection, full and productive employment and decent work, sports and migration, and appropriate measures for financial inclusion as well as accessible community and housing development, take into account the inclusion of all persons with disabilities in society on an equal basis with others and that persons with disabilities have an opportunity to be actively involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of such policies and programmes;

3. *Encourages* Member States, relevant regional organizations and United Nations bodies and agencies to achieve the full application and implementation of the international normative framework on disability and development by

[5] E/CN.5/2017/4.
[6] A/71/344 and Corr.1.
[7] A/71/314.

encouraging the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[4] and by considering the ratification of the Optional Protocol thereto,[5] as both human rights and development instruments;

4. *Emphasizes* the need for equal opportunities and for measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities are not subject to any forms of discrimination or stigmatization, in particular women, children, youth, indigenous peoples, older persons, migrants and refugees who continue to be subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination, and to ensure that they are included in participation on an equal basis with others in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[3] and other internationally agreed development goals;

5. *Decides* to continue to give due consideration to the issue of mainstreaming the rights, participation, perspectives, needs and well-being of persons with disabilities in development, including within the framework of United Nations operational activities, in accordance with relevant mandates, in order to enhance awareness and cooperation at all levels, including the participation, where appropriate, of United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks and institutions and other relevant stakeholders, while ensuring coordination and avoiding any possible overlapping;

6. *Recognizes* that the Commission for Social Development, within its mandate as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, promotes and supports an integrated approach to social development issues within the United Nations system and in this regard, encourages the Commission, within its existing mandate, to contribute to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inter alia, for persons with disabilities, in line with General Assembly resolutions 67/290, entitled "Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development", 70/1, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", and 70/299, entitled "Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level", and by giving due regard to the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the interlinkages between them;

7. *Reaffirms* that social integration and economic policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education for all and health-care services, eliminate discrimination, increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly persons with disabilities, and address the potential challenges posed to social development by globalization and market-driven reforms in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

8. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations agencies and bodies, development agencies and international organizations, and encourages the private sector, to regard accessibility as both a means and a goal of inclusive and sustainable development, and therefore an essential investment that benefits all members of society, and, hence, to ensure that accessibility is an integral part of programmes and projects relating to the built environment, transportation and information and communications technologies;

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2518, No. 44910.

9. *Encourages* the mobilization of resources on a sustainable basis to mainstream disability in development at all levels, and in this regard underlines the need to promote and strengthen international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, in support of national efforts, including, as appropriate, through the establishment of national mechanisms, in particular in developing countries;

10. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders to improve the collection and analysis and to significantly increase the availability of internationally comparable, high-quality, timely and reliable data on persons with disabilities, following existing guidelines on disability statistics and their updates,[9] disaggregated by, inter alia, disability, sex and age, for development policy planning, implementation and evaluation; to share, where appropriate, relevant data and statistics with relevant agencies and bodies within the United Nations system through appropriate mechanisms; and to address the gap in data collection and analysis;

11. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability and the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Multi-Donor Trust Fund;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution through existing reporting mechanisms during the fifty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development.

[9] Such as *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 3* Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 67/Rev.3 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.15.XVII.10) and its updates.

B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its fifty-fifth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-sixth session

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its fifty-fifth session;[1]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

(a) Priority theme: strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all

(b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:

(i) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

(ii) Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;

(iii) World Programme of Action for Youth;

(iv) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;

(v) Family issues, policies and programmes.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 6* (E/2017/26).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes

Report of the Secretary-General on the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

(c) Emerging issues (to be determined).

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on emerging issues

4. Programme questions and other matters:

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2020-2021: subprogramme 2, Social policy and development, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs

5. Provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission.

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-sixth session.

C. Decision calling for action by the Council

3. Pursuant to the following decision, adopted by the Commission, the Economic and Social Council is requested to confirm the nomination of three candidates to the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development:

Decision 55/101
Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

1. The Commission decided to nominate only one member of the Board for a four-year term expiring on 30 June 2017, in view of the financial circumstances of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

2. The Commission decided to nominate Sylvie Durrer to serve on the Board of the Institute for a four-year term beginning on the date of confirmation by the Economic and Social Council and expiring on 30 June 2021.

3. The Commission also decided to renominate the following five candidates whose membership is due to expire on 30 June 2017: Jimi Adesina, Asef Bayat, David Hulme, Joakim Palme and Onalenna Selolwane, for a term beginning on the date of confirmation by the Economic and Social Council and expiring on 30 June 2019.

D. Resolution and decision brought to the attention of the Council

4. The following resolution and decision adopted by the Commission is brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 55/1
Policies and programmes involving youth

The Commission for Social Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995 and resolution 62/126 of 18 December 2007, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth, as contained in the annexes thereto, and acknowledging that the Programme of Action provides Member States with a useful policy framework and practical guidelines for improving the situation of youth,

Recalling also the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Recalling further the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in 1998, and emphasizing the importance of the twentieth anniversary of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, being marked in 2018, and the need for a meaningful assessment of the progress made in youth development and the challenges that remain,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which for the first time the Assembly recognizes children and youth as agents of change,

Recalling also the high-level event held by the General Assembly on 29 May 2015 to mark the twentieth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth, which offered an important opportunity for Member States and other relevant stakeholders to take stock of progress made in its implementation, as well as to identify gaps and challenges and the way forward for its full, effective and accelerated implementation,

Emphasizing the important role that the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth has played in addressing the needs of youth, as well as, inter alia, acting as a harmonizer with different United Nations entities, Governments, civil society, youth organizations, academia and media towards enhancing, empowering and strengthening the position of young people within and outside of the United Nations system,

Reiterating that all 15 priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth are interrelated and mutually reinforcing,

Stressing that the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the achievement of all of the internationally agreed development goals, in

particular the Sustainable Development Goals, require the full and effective participation of youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations and other civil society organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels,

Recalling the proposed set of indicators for the World Programme of Action for Youth, contained in the report of the Secretary-General,[1] to assist Member States in assessing the implementation of the World Programme of Action and thus the evolution of the situation of youth,

Acknowledging the important contributions made by the Youth Forum of the Economic and Social Council to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Acknowledging also the positive contribution of youth, as agents and beneficiaries of development, to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as to the general well-being, progress and diversity of society, as a way of contributing to a progressively fairer distribution of opportunities for youth, which will constitute a step forward to economic development, social justice, social integration and equity,

Emphasizing the need to substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship and to ensure, by 2020, that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy,

Emphasizing also the need to empower youth in order to achieve sustainable development, including poverty eradication, and stressing, in this regard, the commitment in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to substantially reduce by 2020 the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training and to develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment,

Taking note of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth and, in this regard, emphasizing the important role of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth Employment,

Acknowledging the important link between migration and development, recognizing that migration brings both opportunities and challenges to countries of origin, transit and destination, to migrants and to the global community, and recognizing the responsibility of States to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants effectively, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women, young people and children,

Recognizing the important and positive contribution of youth in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

Stressing that increased coordination and collaboration among United Nations entities and with other regional and international organizations working on youth contribute to making the youth-related work of the United Nations system more effective,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

[1] E/CN.5/2013/8.
[2] E/CN.5/2017/5.

2. *Reiterates* that the primary responsibility for implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth lies with Member States, and urges Governments, in consultation with youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to develop holistic and integrated youth policies and programmes based on the Programme of Action and all the internationally agreed development frameworks, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to evaluate them regularly as part of the follow-up action on and implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to continue the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, including its 15 interrelated priority areas, as a policy framework with practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, while taking into account the views of youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations as part of the effective participation of youth in society;

4. *Encourages* Member States to develop comprehensive policies, programmes and action plans focused on the best interests of youth, particularly the poor and those who are vulnerable or marginalized, and to address all aspects of youth development, in line with the World Programme of Action for Youth and to realize the opportunity afforded by the demographic dividend of the largest number of young people ever in the history of humankind;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to promote gender equality and the empowerment of young women and girls and the full realization of all human rights on an equal footing with men and boys;

6. *Also calls upon* Member States to consider, on a voluntary basis, the set of indicators proposed in the report of the Secretary-General for their selection and adaptation in monitoring and assessing the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, paying particular attention to young women and girls and those who are vulnerable or marginalized, including indigenous youth, youth in rural areas, youth with disabilities and young migrants, taking into account the national social and economic circumstances in each country;

7. *Further calls upon* Member States to collect, on a continuing and voluntary basis, reliable, comparable and relevant data, disaggregated by age and sex, to measure progress towards the implementation and monitoring of the World Programme of Action for Youth, and in this regard encourages Member States to engage youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations in the collection, analysis and dissemination of data in the process of assessing progress and evaluating youth policies;

8. *Urges* Member States to ensure that youth issues are adequately addressed in the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and underlines the importance of closely consulting with and actively involving youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations in its implementation;

9. *Encourages* Member States to ensure a coherent and mutually reinforcing approach while implementing all relevant agreed frameworks related to youth, including the World Programme of Action for Youth and the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World

Summit for Social Development,[1] in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

10. *Urges* Member States to ensure the realization and full enjoyment by all young people of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other international human rights instruments, in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth;

11. *Reiterates* that access to quality formal and non-formal education, at all levels, including, as appropriate, catch-up and literacy education, including in information and communications technologies for those who did not receive formal education, information and communications technologies and volunteerism are important factors that enable young people to acquire the relevant skills and to build their capacities, including for employability and entrepreneurial development, and to gain decent and productive work, and calls upon Member States to take the action necessary to ensure that young people have access to such services and opportunities;

12. *Encourages* Member States to consider including youth representatives in their delegations at all relevant discussions in the General Assembly, in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and at relevant United Nations conferences, as appropriate, bearing in mind the principle of gender balance and non-discrimination, and, inter alia, to consider establishing a national youth delegate programme, and emphasizes that youth representatives should be selected through a transparent process that ensures that they have a suitable mandate to represent young people in their countries;

13. *Calls upon* Member States to encourage and promote youth-led and youth-focused organizations through financial, educational and technical support and promotion of their activities;

14. *Urges* Member States to promote the full and effective participation of young people, youth-led and youth-focused organizations in relevant decision-making processes, including in developing, implementing and monitoring policies, programmes and activities, including those related to the World Programme of Action for Youth;

15. *Reaffirms* that the strengthening of international cooperation regarding youth, capacity-building, the enhancement of dialogue, mutual understanding and the active participation of young people are crucial elements in efforts towards achieving the eradication of poverty, full employment and social inclusion, and in this regard stresses the importance of promoting access to health-care services, nationally owned social protection and social services as an important instrument for empowering youth;

16. *Takes note with appreciation* of the increased collaboration among United Nations entities on youth through the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, calls upon United Nations entities to develop additional measures to support local, national, regional and international efforts in addressing challenges hindering youth development and well-being, and in this regard encourages close

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development*, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

collaboration with Member States as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, particularly youth-led and youth-focused organizations;

17. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to bring the voices of young people to the United Nations system in the areas of participation, advocacy, partnerships and harmonization, inter alia by considering appointing special representatives, envoys or advisors, while working closely with Governments, United Nations entities, civil society, youth organizations, academia and the media, to empower and strengthen the position of young people within and outside of the United Nations system, including by conducting country visits, at the request of the Member States concerned;

18. *Calls upon* donors, including Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to actively contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund in order to facilitate the participation of youth representatives from developing countries in the activities of the United Nations, taking into account the need for greater geographical and gender balance of youth representation, as well as to accelerate the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to encourage contributions to the Fund;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development, at its fifty-seventh session, a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution, including progress on the achievements and challenges in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, in consultation with Member States, as well as with the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes and the regional commissions, taking into account the work done by the United Nations system, including the Youth Forum of the Economic and Social Council, and encourages the Secretariat to consult, as appropriate, with youth-led and youth-focused organizations.

Decision 55/102
Documents considered by the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-fifth session

The Commission for Social Development takes note of the following documents that were before it at its fifty-fifth session:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all;[2]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: preliminary assessment;[3]

(c) Note by the Secretariat on emerging issues: promoting integrated policies for poverty eradication: youth development in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.[4]

[2] E/CN.5/2017/3.
[3] E/CN.5/2017/6.
[4] E/CN.5/2017/7.

Chapter II

Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

1. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its 2nd to 11th meetings, on 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 10 February 2017. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/CN.5/2017/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all (E/CN.5/2017/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/CN.5/2017/4 and Corr.1);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on policies and programmes involving youth (E/CN.5/2017/5);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002: preliminary assessment (E/CN.5/2017/6);

(f) Note by the Secretariat on emerging issues: promoting integrated policies for poverty eradication: youth development in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/CN.5/2017/7);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (E/CN.5/2017/8);

(h) Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (E/CN.5/2017/9);

(i) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2017/NGO/1-75).

2. At the 2nd meeting, on 1 February, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, introduced the documentation under agenda item 3 as a whole.

Action taken by the Commission under agenda item 3

Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

3. At the 11th meeting, on 10 February, the observer for Ecuador (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development" (E/CN.5/2017/L.5).

4. Subsequently, Turkey[1] joined in co-sponsoring the draft resolution.

[1] In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission agreed to the proposal of the Chair to waive the relevant provision of rule 52 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council and proceeded to take action on the draft resolution.

6. Also at its 11th meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution (E/CN.5/2017/L.5) and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for its final adoption (see chap. I.A, draft resolution I).

7. Before the adoption, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America; after the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the observer for South Africa.

A. Priority theme: strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all

8. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (a) at its 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 8th to 11th meetings, on 1, 2, 6, 7 and 10 February 2017.

9. At its 2nd meeting, on 1 February, the Commission began its general discussion of item 3 (a) and heard statements by the representatives of Austria, Brazil, the Russian Federation, Paraguay, Turkmenistan, Portugal and France.

10. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Ecuador (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Malta (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine), Viet Nam (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Costa Rica (also on behalf of Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Italy, Mongolia, Montenegro, Portugal, Spain and Uruguay) and Mongolia.

11. At its 5th meeting, on 2 February, the Commission continued its general discussion of item 3 (a) and heard statements by the representatives of Peru, Ghana, Romania, the Republic of Moldova, Benin, Chile and Switzerland.

12. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Nigeria (also on behalf of the Group of African States), Cameroon, the Philippines, Afghanistan, Czechia, Senegal, Kenya, Botswana, Ukraine, South Africa, the Netherlands, Mali, Viet Nam and Morocco.

13. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Bilic Human Rights Initiative, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

14. At its 8th meeting, on 6 February, the Commission continued its general discussion of item 3 (a) and heard statements by the representatives of Finland, Namibia, Argentina, Pakistan, Iraq, Colombia, Republic of Korea, Poland, China, Japan, Bangladesh, the United States of America, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Mexico.

15. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Thailand, Zimbabwe, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Tunisia, Sweden, Maldives, Indonesia, Italy, Germany, Libya, Cabo Verde and Myanmar.

16. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations, in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, made statements: Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro and Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

17. At the 9th meeting, on 6 February, the Commission continued its general discussion of item 3 (a) and heard statements by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malawi and Algeria.

18. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Nicaragua, Nepal, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Ireland, Turkey, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Guatemala, Burkina Faso, Cuba and Zambia as well as by the observer for the Holy See.

19. Also at the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for the International Organization of la Francophonie, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and the International Organization for Migration.

20. At the 9th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

21. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Corporación para la Investigación, el Desarrollo Sostenible y la Promoción Social; International Movement ATD Fourth World; Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa; and Mountain Institute (also on behalf of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences and the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics).

Panel discussion

22. At its 8th meeting, on 4 February, the Commission held a panel discussion on the priority theme "Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all". Following the opening remarks by the Chair of the Commission, a keynote address was delivered by the Edmond D. Villani Chair of Economics at Georgetown University, Professor Martin Ravallion. Following remarks by the moderator, the Executive Director of the Center for Leadership and Sustainable Development, SUNY-UWI, and former Executive Coordinator for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Elizabeth Thompson, the Commission heard presentations by the following panellists: the Vice-President of Costa Rica, Ana Helena Chacón; the Minister for Women Affairs and Social Development of Nigeria, Aisha Jumai Alhassan; the Vice-Minister of Social Development of Panama, Michelle Muschett; Director-General of the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion in the European Commission, Michel Servoz; and Development Consultant and a National Coordinator of Women in Development and Environment in Nigeria, Ifeyinwa Ofong. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, starting with the lead discussant, the Vice-Minister for Social and Rural Development of Brazil, Alberto Beltrame, followed by the representative of Romania. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic

and Social Council also participated in the dialogue: Baha'i International Community; UNANIMA International; International Association of Schools of Social Work; and SustainUs. The Chair's summary of the panel discussion is available from the website of the Commission (http://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocd-social-policy-and-development-division/csocd55/summaries.html).

B. Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups

23. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (b) at its 2nd, 6th, 7th, 10th and 11th meetings, on 1, 3, 7 and 10 February 2017.

24. At its 7th meeting, on 3 February, the Commission began its general discussion of agenda item 3 (b) and heard statements by the representatives of El Salvador (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Paraguay, France, El Salvador, Switzerland, Qatar, Romania, Japan, Algeria, Brazil, the Republic of Korea and China.

25. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Malta (on behalf of the European Union, and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine), Madagascar, the Philippines, the Dominican Republic, Afghanistan, Georgia, the Netherlands, Czechia and Tunisia.

26. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the International Labour Organization.

27. At the 7th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Doha International Family Institute; International Federation for Family Development; and International Federation on Ageing.

28. At its 10th meeting, on 7 February, the Commission continued its general discussion of agenda item 3 (b) and heard statements by the representatives of Colombia and Bangladesh.

29. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Cuba and Azerbaijan.

30. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics; Darüşşafaka Cemiyeti; Association Miraisme International; International Relations Students' Association of McGill University; and SustainUs.

Panel discussion

31. At its 6th meeting, on 3 February, the Commission held a panel discussion on "Leaving no one behind: poverty and disability." Following the opening remarks by the Chair of the Commission and the moderator, Professor and Director of Leonard Cheshire Disability and Inclusive Development Centre at University College London, Nora Groce, the Commission heard presentations by the following

panellists: the Vice-President of Costa Rica, Ana Helena Chacón; Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas Aguilar; Director in charge of social protection and labour of the World Bank Group, Steen Lau Jorgensen; and the Director of Global Policy, Influencing and Research of ADD International, Mosharraf Hossain. Following the presentations by the panellists, an interactive discussion ensued, during which interventions were made by the lead discussant, the Vice-Governor of the State of Parana of Brazil, Maria Aparecida Borghetti, and the representatives of China, Portugal, Mexico, Ghana, Japan and Malawi, and by the observers for Morocco, New Zealand, Senegal, Zambia, Botswana and Kenya. The observer for the European Union also made comments and posed a question. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations, in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, also made comments and posed questions to the panellists: Inclusion International; School Sisters of Notre Dame; Somali Help-Age Association; and Rehabilitation International. The Chair's summary of the panel discussion is available from the website of the Commission (http://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocd-social-policy-and-development-division/csocd55/summaries.html).

Action taken by the Commission on agenda item 3 (b)

Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

32. At its 11th meeting, on 10 February, the Commission agreed to the proposal of the Chair to waive the relevant provision of rule 52 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and proceeded to take action on draft resolution E/CN.5/2017/L.3, on promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was submitted by the Chair of the Commission on the basis of informal consultations.

33. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.5/2017/L.3 and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for its final adoption (see chap. I.A, draft resolution II).

Policies and programmes involving youth

34. At its 11th meeting, the observer for Portugal, also on behalf of Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Senegal and Spain, introduced the draft resolution on policies and programmes involving youth (E/CN.5/2017/L.4) and announced that Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Estonia, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Latvia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine and Zambia had joined the list of co-sponsors of the draft resolution.

35. At the same meeting, the Commission agreed to the proposal of the Chair to waive the relevant provision of rule 52 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council and proceeded to take action on the draft resolution.

36. At its 11th meeting, on 10 February, the Commission adopted a draft resolution contained in an informal paper in English (see chap. I.D, draft resolution 55/1).

37. Before the adoption, statements were made by the representative of Portugal and observer for South Africa; after the adoption, a statement was made by the representative of Mexico.

C. Emerging issues: promoting integrated policies for poverty eradication: youth development in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Panel discussion

38. At its 4th meeting, on 2 February, the Commission held a panel discussion on the emerging issue of "Promoting integrated policies for poverty eradication: youth development in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". Following the opening remarks by the Chair of the Commission, the panel discussion ensued, moderated by the Partnerships Manager at the SEED Project, Global Youth Ambassador for Water Aid and Vice-Chair of the Global Youth Empowerment Fund Board of Trustees, Vivian Onano. Panellists included the Federal Minister of Families and Youth of Austria, Sophie Karmasin; the Director of the National Institute of Youth of the Ministry of Social Development of Uruguay, Santiago Soto; a Youth Development Consultant, Gemma Wood; the Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Nada Al-Nashif; the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, Ahmad Alhendawi; and the Secretary-General at ENGSO Youth (Serbia)-Sports, Nevena Vukašinović. The Commission subsequently engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the lead discussant, the Head of the European Union Coordination and International Affairs Unit of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of Germany, Mark Kamperhoff, and the representatives of Portugal, Madagascar, China, Brazil, Iraq, Mexico and Switzerland, as well as the observers for the Philippines and Libya, participated. The observers for the International Organization of la Francophonie; the European Union and Commonwealth, as well as the representative of the European Youth Forum, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, also participated. The Chair's summary of the panel discussion is available from the website of the Commission (http://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocd-social-policy-and-development-division/csocd55/summaries.html).

Chapter III
Programme questions and other matters

1. The Commission considered agenda item 4 (a) and (b) at its 9th meeting, on 6 February 2017.

A. Proposed programme of work of the Secretariat for the biennium 2018-2019

2. At the 9th meeting, on 6 February, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made a statement regarding the proposed programme of work of the Secretariat for the biennium 2018-2019, which was circulated in an informal paper.

B. United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

3. At the 9th meeting, on 6 February, the Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development reported on the work of the Institute.

Action taken by the Commission

Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

4. At its 9th meeting, on 6 February, the Commission decided to nominate only one member of the Board, namely, Sylvie Durrer, for a four-year term beginning on the date of confirmation by the Economic and Social Council and expiring on 30 June 2021, in view of the financial circumstances of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (see chap. I.B, decision 55/101).

5. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to renominate the following five candidates whose membership is due to expire on 30 June 2017: Jimi Adesina, Asef Bayat, David Hulme, Joakim Palme, and Onalenna Selolwane, for a term beginning on the date of confirmation by the Economic and Social Council and expiring on 30 June 2019 (see chap. I.B, decision 55/101).

Chapter IV

Provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 11th meeting, on 10 February 2017. It had before it the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission (E/CN.5/2017/L.1).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-sixth session (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision).

Chapter V

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth session

1. At the 11th meeting, on 10 February, the Vice-Chair and Rapporteur of the Commission, Ana Sandoval Espínola (Paraguay), introduced the draft report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth session, as contained in document E/CN.5/2017/L.2.

2. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and entrusted the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur with its completion.

Chapter VI
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission for Social Development held its fifty-fifth session at United Nations Headquarters on 12 February 2016 and from 1 to 10 February 2017. The Commission held 11 meetings (1st to 11th).

2. At the 2nd meeting, on 1 February 2017, the Vice-Chair of the fifty-fifth session, Elisabeta David (Romania), opened the regular session and made a statement.

3. At the same meeting, the newly elected Chair, Philipp Charwath (Austria), made a statement and presided over the rest of the meeting.

4. Also at the same meeting, the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed the Commission, as did the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, on behalf of the Secretary-General. Subsequently, the President of the General Assembly also addressed the Commission.

5. At the 2nd meeting, the Chair of the Non-Governmental Organization Committee for Social Development made a statement on the outcome of the Civil Society Forum held on 30 and 31 January.

6. At the same meeting, a participant of the Youth Forum of the Economic and Social Council, held on 30 and 31 January, made a statement on youth-related issues relevant to the work of the Commission.

B. Attendance

7. The session was attended by representatives of 30 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-Member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended (the list of participants is contained in document E/CN.5/2017/INF/1).

C. Election of officers

8. In its decision 2002/210, the Economic and Social Council decided that, immediately following the closure of a regular session, the Commission would hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other members of the Bureau.

9. At the 1st meeting of the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, held on 12 February 2016, pursuant to Economic and Social Council decisions 2002/210 and resolution 2016/6, the Commission elected, Elisabeta David (Romania), Ana Sandoval Espínola (Paraguay) and Brian Bowler (Malawi) as Vice-Chairs of its fifty-fifth session, by acclamation:

10. At the same meeting, the Commission postponed the election of the Chair from the Western European and other States and of the Vice-Chair from the Asia-Pacific States.

11. At its 2nd meeting, on 1 February 2017, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Philipp Charwath (Austria) as Chair of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission.

12. At the same meeting, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Lot Dzonzi (Malawi) to replace Brian Bowler (Malawi) and Alanoud Al-Temimi (Qatar) as Vice-Chairs of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission.

13. Also at the same meeting, the Commission designated the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Ana Sandoval Espinola (Paraguay), as Rapporteur for the session.

D. Agenda and organization of work

14. At its 2nd meeting, on 1 February, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/CN.5/2017/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
   (a) Priority theme: strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all;
   (b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:
      (i) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;
      (ii) Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;
      (iii) World Programme of Action for Youth;
      (iv) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;
      (v) Family issues, policies and programmes;
   (c) Emerging issues: promoting integrated policies for poverty eradication: youth development in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
4. Programme questions and other matters:
   (a) Proposed programme of work of the Secretariat for the biennium 2018-2019;
   (b) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.
5. Provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth session.

15. At the same meeting, following a statement by the Chair, the Commission approved its organization of work, as contained in annex I to document E/CN.5/2017/1, and established time limits for statements in the general discussion.

E. Documentation

16. The list of documents before the Commission at its fifty-fifth session is contained in the annex to the present report.

Annex

List of documents before the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-fifth session

Symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title*
A/70/61-E/2015/3	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014
E/CN.5/2017/1/Rev.1	2	Provisional annotated agenda and proposed organization of work
E/CN.5/2017/2	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development
E/CN.5/2017/3	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all
E/CN.5/2017/4 and Corr.1	3	Report by the Secretary-General on mainstreaming disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
E/CN.5/2017/5	3 (b)	Report by the Secretary-General on policies and programmes involving youth
E/CN.5/2017/6	3 (b)	Report by the Secretary-General on the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002: preliminary assessment
E/CN.5/2017/7	3 (c)	Note by the Secretariat on emerging issues: promoting integrated policies for poverty eradication: youth development in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
E/CN.5/2017/8	4 (b)	Note by the Secretary-General on the Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
E/CN.5/2017/9	4	Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Institute for Social Development
E/CN.5/2017/L.1	5	Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development
E/CN.5/2017/L.2	6	Draft report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth session

Symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title*
E/CN.5/2017/L.3	3 (b)	Draft resolution on promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
E/CN.5/2017/L.4	3 (b)	Draft resolution on policies and programmes involving youth
E/CN.5/2016/L.5	3	Draft resolution on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development
E/CN.5/2017/CRP.1	4	Draft programme of work of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the biennium 2018-2019
E/CN.5/2017/NGO/1-75[a]	3 (a) and 3 (b)	Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

[a] Available from www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocd-social-policy-and-development-division/csocd55/ngos-written-statements.html.

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